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Ans to the ques no-2

One of the central themes of "The Rape of the Lock" is morality and the development of virtue. Because the poem is a satire, a textual example of a moral or virtuous person is absent from the poem itself but Pope uses the characters to reveal an absence of morality or virtuousness. Ironically, the most moral character of the text is Ariel, a sylph whose purpose is to protect Belinda from making immoral

choices, but even he falls short of moral obligations. To highlight the absence of virtue, Pope uses the trope of appearance versus reality. The characters of the poem present themselves to others a certain way, though in reality they are not being genuine.

The Rape of the Lock revolves around Belinda, whose guardian sylph warns her of disaster but she ignores it and gets ready to go for a party. At the party, there is a man called

Baron, who has decided to cut off a lock of Belinda's hair. The people at the party enjoy a game of cards, which has been defined by the poet as a battle. Eventually, Baron takes away a lock of Belinda's hair, which infuriates her and here begins a scuffle between the ladies and the gentlemen in which Belinda tries retrieving her lock of hair, but it is lost. The Rape of the Lock is an Oration Satire, which is basically intended to bring up amusement

more willingly than disrespect. Basically, the poem under consideration namely The Rape of the Lock is an idealistic composition that has been put forward to us by Alexander Pope. This mock epic is a superior filigree effort exposed to the inconsequential uproar in the teacup that should never be deprived of the position of a creative artist. Pope employs satire as a means to criticize and expose the vanities, follies

and social codes of his time. Through his witty and skillful use of language, Pope successfully satirizes the high society norms, highlighting the vanity, absurdity and moral decay prevalent among the upper classes. Pope's choice to center his poem on the theft of ~~the~~ a lock of hair may appear trivial at first but this seemingly frivolous event becomes the vehicle through which he criticizes the social pretensions of the upper class.

The poem opens with the invocation of the Muse, traditionally associated with epic poetry, only to reveal that the epic subject is the 'dire offense' of Belinda's lost lock of hair. This inversion of epic conventions heightens the satirical tone of the poem, as Pope uses the grandeur and seriousness associated with epic poetry to highlight the absurdity and exaggerated importance placed on trivial matters by the aristocracy.

Belinda's lock of hair, which symbolizes her beauty and social status is elevated to a cosmic level of significance by the characters in the poem. The epic machinery is employed to describe the lock in terms of celestial bodies, such as the sun and the moon. Through this exaggeration, Pope satirizes the exaggerated importance placed on external appearances and the self absorption of the upper class. By magnifying the significance of a lock of hair, Pope exposes

the superficiality of a society obsessed with physical beauty and shallow values.

'The Rape of the Lock' also serves as a scathing critique of the social codes and etiquette of Pope's time. The poem explores the elaborate rituals and customs of the upper class, particularly those surrounding courtship and social gatherings. Pope satirizes these conventions by highlighting their absurdity and artificiality.

One of the most memorable ~~some~~ scenes in the poem is the

game of ombre, a fashionable card game of the time. Pope mocks the excessive formality and seriousness with which the game is played, turning it into a ludicrous spectacle. The rules and rituals associated with ombre are described in a manner that exaggerates their complexity, exposing the artificiality of the aristocratic lifestyle. Pope's portrayal of gender roles and stereotypes is another aspect of his satirical critique in

The Rape of the Lock. The poem explores the power dynamics between men and women, highlighting the objectification of women and the superficiality of courtship rituals. Belinda, the poem's central character, represents the idealized women of the upper class, emphasizing beauty, grace, and social status. She is depicted as a passive object.